healthfulest and sweetest time with sluggishnesse. In the Winter if I be loathe I commit all to my Steward, whose faith and diligence I am sure of, whom I haue so well instructed that I may safely make him my deputie: I haue also Euriclia my maid, so skilful in huswifery, that shee may well be my wives suffragan; these twaine we appoint to supply our places. But if the weather and time serve, I play the worke-master myselfe. And though I haue a Bay-ife as skilfull as may be, yet remembering the old saying, that the best doung for the field is the master's foot, and the best provender for the Horse the Master's eye, I play the overseer myselfe. When my servants are all set to worke, and everie man as busie as may be, I get me into my loset to serve God, and to reade the holy Scriptures: for this order I always keepe to appoint myselfe everie day my taske, in reading some part of the old Testament or of the new. That done, I write and read such things as I thinke most needfull or dispatch what businesse soever I have in my house, or with sutors abroad. ... A little before dinner I walke out, if it be faire, either in my garden, or in the fields; if it be foule in my gallerie. When I come in I find an egge, a chicke, a peece of kid, or a peece of veale, fish, butter, and such like, as my foldes, my yarde, or my dairie, and fish ponds will yeeld: sometimes a Sallat or such fruits as the garden or orchard doth beare: which victuals without aney charges my wife provideth me . . . after dinner I rise and walke about my ground, where I view my workemen, my Pastures, my Meddowes, my Corne, and my Cattel. . . . In the meanwhile I behold the wonderful wisedome of Nature and the incomprehensible working of the most mighty God in his creatures. Here waigh I with myselfe, the benefits and wonderfull workes of His, who bringeth forth grasse for the Cattel and green hearbe for the use of man. With these sights do I recreate my minde, and give thanks unto God the creator and conserver of all things, singing the song "Praise tho

To complete the picture of that complacent old rascal, whose feet are a little too firmly planted in both worlds, I should add that he sowed by the moon, believed that if you grafted your pear on a mulberry you would get red fruit, big fruit if you grafted your medlar on a thorn, and sweet but not lasting fruit if you attached your graft to a pine tree. He also believed that if you took the horn of a ram and ground it to powder, and "sowed it, watering it well, it would come to be good Sperage." Sperage, I gather, was asparagus, and when I think how often and how thoroughly my own bed has to be weeded, with what difficulty it was es; tablished, and how vigilantly I have had to guard it since, I can't help hoping that the old humbug got no more asparagus in his Sallat than his ram's horn sowings provided under the influence of the moon.

(To be continued)



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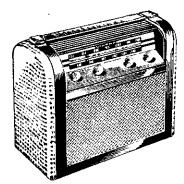
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